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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN THE MINERAL SECTOR: SMALL-SCALE MINING ACTIVITIES IN DEVELOPMENT COUNTRIES AND ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Neculai Pavlovschi (Romania), on the basis of informal consultations

Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 1993/302 of 29 July 1993,

Recognizing that small-scale mining has the potential to make a significant positive contribution to social and economic development in several parts of the world,

Recognizing also that illegal or poorly managed small-scale mining activities have been shown to be damaging to the general and the working environments,

Bearing in mind that limited financial resources for occupational and technological improvement are inherent in small-scale mining,

Noting that small-scale mining activities are often scattered over large areas, therefore hampering the ability of government to monitor them properly,

Convinced that the development and implementation of appropriate legislation and regulations that will encourage the mechanization of existing small-scale mining and its incorporation into the formal sector, as well as

promote new activities, will contribute to the alleviation of rural poverty and the achievement of sustainable development goals referred to in Agenda 21, 1/

Bearing in mind the significant contribution of women to small-scale mining in many countries and the importance of their role in the management and control of its environmental impact,

Mindful of the need for increased access of small-scale miners, including women, to vocational training, technology transfer and financial credit, particularly through the activities of international, governmental and non-governmental organizations,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition; 2/

2. Stresses the need for new efforts at the national, regional and international levels in support of small-scale mining activity;

3. Calls for new initiatives in bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation to be undertaken by intergovernmental organizations in order to enhance the contribution of small-scale mining to economic and social development;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session a report on small-scale mining that includes a quantitative evaluation of its importance to the economies of developing countries and countries in transition;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to include in that report an analysis of new approaches and developments, focusing on the role of local communities, the role of the private sector, the flow of foreign capital and the creation of joint ventures;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to highlight in that report recent results obtained in some new areas of activity, such as building materials, mineral waters and geothermal waters.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ E/C.7/1994/9.